

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Collard on May 22, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows: In the specification, section headings have been added. On line 2 of page 1, the section heading --Background Information-- has been added. On line ¹⁷20 of page 4, the section heading --Summary of Invention-- has been added. On line ¹⁶16 of page 12, the section heading --Brief Description of the Drawings-- has been added. On line 3 of page 14, the section heading --Detailed Description-- has been added. The following references to numbered claims of the invention have been removed from the Background Information, on line 2 of page 1, the recitation --according to the preamble-- has been removed. On line ¹⁷18 of page 5, the recitation --having the features of claim 1-- has been removed.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-17 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record for claim 1 are Faber (US Patent 6,45,813B1) and Faber (6,067,905). Faber '813 teaches many of the limitations of claim 1, including a self-inking hand stamp comprising housing with a securing element comprising a snap-in element and an actuator yoke relative to the housing. However, Faber '813 does not teach that a stamp plate provided in a stamp